



Marine Transportation Advisory Board

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
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Mike Barton, Commissioner
Department of Transportation
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Commissioner Barton:

The Marine Transportation Advisory Board (MTAB) met, via teleconference, on December 20, 2005, and discussed the draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The MTAB recognizes that elimination of language earmarking funds for specific projects may provide an opportunity for additional projects to be authorized for funding. In light of that, the MTAB passed the 4 resolutions below. I am forwarding them to you for consideration as the draft STIP is finalized or should additional funding become available.

- Upgrading, bridge replacement, and paving of South Mitkof Highway between Petersburg and the new South Mitkof ferry terminal is a high priority for the MTAB.
- The construction of a dock and ferry terminal in Gustavus is also a high priority. Construction of a wave abatement barrier should be included as part of this project.
- The MTAB continues to recognize the Haines Skagway Shuttle as a priority.
- The Board wants AMHS to begin planning for construction of a new mainline ferry and a southern gateway ferry, at a minimum.

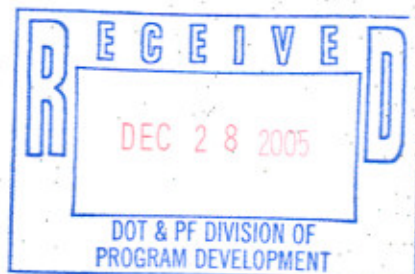
The Board is also concerned that the STIP does not follow the approved SE Alaska Transportation Plan (SATP). If additional funding does become available, the MTAB would like a chance to again review that plan and its relation to a future version of the STIP.

Previous to our teleconference, MTAB had also recommended that DOT/PF use existing Shakwak funds for vessel construction and replacement, as the SATP also identified the "Shakwak funds for new vessel construction." The additional FTA monies are not connected to STIP projects, but the STIP identifies Shakwak funds as a source for many other non-vessel related projects in the document.

Thank you for allowing the Board to comment, and I would be happy to discuss the reasons behind our recommendations with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

J.C. Conley, Chair
Marine Transportation Advisory Committee



cc: Jeff Otteson, Director, DOT Division of Program Development
Andy Hughes, Planner, DOT SE Region
MTAB Members
Linda Hay, Special Assistant to the Governor
Mary Siroky, Special Assistant to the Commissioner